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AGRICULTURAL REFORM IN EAST GERMANY

Hundreds of thousands of resettlers, who were without a home and without any means of existence after World War II, were given a new home in the course of the East German agricultural reform. Land was also given to poor peasants, to agricultural workers without any land of their own, small peasants on leased land, etc. Altogether 489,000 families received 1,675,400 hectares of agricultural land and 417,100 hectares of wooded land as their personal property from the land reserve resulting from confiscations (Bodenfond). This acreage amounts to 85 percent of the confiscated land, while the balance became people's property in the form of seed-growing farms and other agricultural enterprises.

This reform was followed by the long-range program for new farmers. In the process of carrying out this program, 57,468 new dwellings and 62,497 outbuildings were built for the new farmers. At present, there are 13,305 dwellings and 12,236 outbuildings under construction.

A network of 524 machine rental stations, which are to be increased to 750 within the Five-Year Plan, are helping these new farmers, among others, to carry out their work rationally and in accordance with scientific methods.

In 1950, consumption of nitrogen fertilizers by East Germany's agriculture was 104.6 percent of 1938 consumption; phosphate fertilizers, 70 percent; and lime fertilizers, 123 percent. Demand for potash fertilizer has been fully satisfied. The number of tractors available to East Germany's agriculture is to be increased from 11,950 to 38,500; tractor plows from 14,090 to 38,500 within the Five-Year Plan period.

Within the last few years a total of 2,410 million Deutsche marks have been made available for measures to aid agriculture. By the end of 1950, the planting area will be 102.6 percent of the 1938 area. By the beginning of June 1950, the animal husbandry plan had been fulfilled 101 percent for horses 101 percent for cattle, and 130 percent for pigs.

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